



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Former Employee Sentenced to 2 ½ Years in Prison

For Defrauding Non-Profit

- Defendant Stole More Than \$95,000, Spent it on Travel, Other Personal Expenses -

WASHINGTON - Kimberly Nicely, 49, of College Park, Md., was sentenced today to a prison term of 2 ½ years in connection with her theft of more than \$95,000 from a non-profit organization, announced U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. and Daniel S. Cortez, Inspector in Charge of the Washington Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

Nicely pled guilty in June 2011 to a charge of wire fraud. She was sentenced this morning by the Honorable Robert L. Wilkins of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. In addition, to the prison term, she was ordered to pay restitution of \$95,524 to the victim, and an order of forfeiture was entered against her for the same amount. Upon completion of her prison term, she will be placed on three years of supervised release.

According to a statement of offense agreed to by the government and Nicely, The Fund for Peace hired Nicely in 2005 as an independent contractor to work as a controller. The Fund for Peace, which is headquartered in the District of Columbia, is an independent, nonpartisan research and educational organization that works to prevent war and alleviate the conditions that cause conflict. The organization promotes sustainable security through research, training and education, engagement of civil society, building bridges across diverse sectors, and developing innovative technologies and tools for policy makers.

Beginning in or about 2007, Nicely devised a scheme and stole money from The Fund for Peace by diverting money from the organization's bank accounts to her own personal use. She hid this conduct from her supervisor and others at the non-profit. On at least 21 occasions between 2007 and 2009, Nicely wrote a check on The Fund for Peace bank account to herself or to "petty cash," forged the signature of an authorized signatory, cashed the check, and kept the money for herself. Nicely also wrote two unauthorized and forged checks to an associate of hers. The sum of these checks was more than \$46,000.

Over the course of 2009, Nicely made unauthorized use of a Fund for Peace credit card, purchasing more than \$47,000 worth of items for her personal use. These purchases included personal travel, meals, rental cars, and substantial cash withdrawals at a casino in West Virginia. In 2009, Nicely also used a Fund for Peace debit card to make almost \$2,000 in unauthorized cash withdrawals.

All told, Nicely took \$95,524 of the organization's money and converted it to her personal use by fraudulent means from 2007 through 2009.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen and Inspector in Charge Cortez commended the investigative efforts of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. They also praised the work of members of the U.S. Attorney's Office, including former Paralegal Specialist Mary Treanor, Assistant U.S. Attorney Diane Lucas, who handled the criminal forfeiture aspects of the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Bryan Seeley, who prosecuted the case.

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